

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn): A belt type continuous plate manufacturing apparatus comprising two endless belts so placed that their facing belt surfaces run toward the same direction at the same speed, and continuous gaskets running under condition of being sandwiched by belt surfaces at their both side edge portions, wherein a polymerizable raw material is fed into a space surrounded by the facing belt surfaces and the continuous gaskets from its one end, the polymerizable raw material is solidified together with running of the belts in a heating zone, and the plate polymer is taken out from the other end, characterized in that three or more upper and lower roll pairs satisfying the following formula (1) and formula (2) are placed so that respective axes thereof orthogonally cross the belt running direction, between a raw material feeding position and a heating initiation position:

$$D/Z \geq 0.04 \quad (1)$$

$$0.30 \leq D/X \leq 0.99 \quad (2)$$

D: outermost diameter of roll body portion [mm]

Z: width of roll body portion [mm]

X: distance between axis centers of adjacent upper and lower roll pairs [mm].

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): The belt type continuous plate manufacturing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of three or more upper and lower roll pairs satisfies the following formula (3):

$$0.50 \leq D/X \leq 0.99 \quad (3)$$

D: outermost diameter of roll body portion [mm]

X: distance between axis centers of adjacent upper and lower roll pairs [mm].

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): The belt type continuous plate manufacturing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the raw material feeding part has a structure in which a raw material is flown from one or a plurality of pipes onto a plane surrounded by the lower endless belt and the gaskets at the both side edge portions.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): The belt type continuous plate manufacturing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a laser beam emitter is provided on the side of the raw material

feeding part and, laser ray is emitted from the laser beam emitter along the belt running direction.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A method of producing a plate polymer comprising feeding a polymerizable raw material containing methyl methacrylate into a belt type continuous plate manufacturing apparatus comprising:

two endless belts configured such that their facing belt surfaces run toward the same direction at the same speed,

continuous gaskets running under condition of being sandwiched by belt surfaces at their both side edge portions,

a laser beam emitter provided on the side of a raw material feeding part, and

three or more upper and lower roll pairs configured such that respective axes thereof orthogonally cross the belt running direction, between a raw material feeding position and a heating initiation position,

wherein

the polymerizable raw material is fed into a space surrounded by the facing belt surfaces and the continuous gaskets from a first end,

the polymerizable raw material is solidified together with running of the belts in a heating zone,

the three or more upper and lower roll pairs satisfy formula (1) and formula (2):

$$D/Z \geq 0.04 \quad (1)$$

$$0.30 \leq D/X \leq 0.99 \quad (2)$$

wherein D is an outermost diameter of a roll body portion [mm], Z is a width of the roll body portion [mm], and X is a distance between axis centers of adjacent upper and lower roll pairs [mm],

laser ray is emitted from the laser beam emitter along the belt running direction,

the laser ray is reflected at the gas-liquid interface between the polymerizable raw material and air such that the reflected laser ray orthogonally crosses the belt-running direction and is detected via the gaskets to confirm gasket reaching positions A₁ and A₂ of the polymerizable raw material, and

the plate polymer is taken out from a second end.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method of producing a plate polymer according to Claim 6, wherein after feeding of the raw material from the raw material feeding part, a position is detected along the belt running direction when the raw material spreading along the width direction due to the raw material self weight reaches the gasket at the both side edge portions of the lower endless belt, the detection occurring by emitting laser ray from the laser beam emitter along the belt running direction and detecting reflection light orthogonally crossing the belt running direction among lights reflected at the gas-liquid interface between the polymerizable raw material and air, and regulation is so made that the detected position shows a variation width of 1 m or less along the belt running direction.

Claims 9-13 (Canceled).